

Head quarters, Continental Village, September 16<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Sir,

In the postscript of mine of the 17<sup>th</sup> I mentioned that a fleet of about 40 sail passed up the Sound on the 15<sup>th</sup>. I have not <sup>heard</sup> from them since, but am in expectation of further intelligence very soon. It was thought by some that it was a wood-fleet only - It may be so. I learn through another channel since, that a number of transports fell down to the Hook the same day, said to have troops on board - Not a hint has transpired of any certainty of their destination. The enemy are undoubtedly embarrassed in the extreme, on account of Lord Cornwallis's situation - and have reason to be so. They wish to do something to extricate themselves if possible, and to keep up the spirits of the troops. - I have long felt a concern for the eastern parts of your commonwealth - It gives me pain when I reflect on the enemy's having foot-hold on Penobscot river. I think

they



they will struggle hard to have that valuable country confirmed to them - and if when a peace takes place, the conditions should be, that each of the powers at war shall retain what they have taken, it will be a most humiliating consideration to Massachusetts. It is altogether conjecture; yet I have a jealousy in my own mind, that some of the vessels which have lately sailed, are destined to Penobscot.

His Excellency the commander in chief has directed me to send on after him one hundred head of beef cattle weekly; this will require your superintendant to be punctual in forwarding the number required from your Commonwealth. I pray there may not be the least deficiency.

I have no late news from the southward - Our expectations are high and sanguine.

Please present my respectful compliments to your amiable lady.

I have the honor to be

With the highest respect,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient servant,

W. Heath

His Excellency Governor Hancock.



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General Heath,

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